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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State 636

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DE RUMJIR 28415 1711240
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
RUMJDK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG
RUWHHQA/CINCPAC
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 28415

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

HONG KONG FOR GARD

Pol 14 Viet

REF: SAIGON 26245

1. GARD AND EMBOFF CALLED ON SOUTHERN LAY BUDDHIST LEADER AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE MAI THO TUYEN JUNE 19. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION TRUYEN SAID THAT THE MAIN ISSUE IN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MD
REVIEWED BY Joan Jaeger DATE 10/3/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE CAPTION MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFY ☑ R.L.ASALLE ☑
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Saigon 28415

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 28415 C O N F I D E N T I E L
THE COMING CAMPAIGN WILL BE "WHAT ALL VIETNAMESE WANT". ASKED WHAT THIS IS, HE SAID THAT OF COURSE IT IS PEACE. WITHOUT PEACE, NO POSITIVE PROGRAMS CAN BE CARRIED OUT IN ANY FIELD. ASKED HOW PEACE CAN BE ACHIEVED, TRUYEN SAID HE COULD NOT GO INTO ANY SPECIFICS BECAUSE TRAN VAN HUONG IS THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE R TICKET. HE SAID THAT HE EN HUONG HAD AGREED THAT HUONG ALONE WILL SPEAK OUT ON SUCH SUBJECTS.

(1)

2. ASKED ABOUT HIS CAMPAIGN PLANS, TRUYEN WAS VERY RETICENT, FINALLY SAID THAT HE MIGHT BEGIN ORGANIZING A CAMPAIGN IN EARLY JULY. HE OBSERVED THAT HE AND HUONG ARE RUNNING AS "SYMBOLS" OF HONESTY AND INTEGRITY AND DO NOT NEED TO BUY VOTES AS KY HAS BEEN DOING FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS. HE DID NOT RESPOND TO EMBOFF'S QUERY ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF VO LONG TRIEU IN BEHALF OF HUONG'S CANDIDACY. HE CLAIMED NOT TO HAVE HEARD OF THE REPORT (WHICH HAS APPEARED IN THE SAIGON PRESS) THAT THE AN QUANG MILITANTS WILL SUPPORT HUONG FOR

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PAGE 3 RUMJIR 28415 C O N F I D E N T I A L
3. TRUYEN ALSO CLAIMED THAT HIS ORGANIZATION, THE SOUTHERN BUDDHIST STUDY ASSOCIATION, WILL NOT RPT NOT BE INVOLVED IN HIS CAMPAIGN. HE SAID THAT HE IS RUNNING AS A CITIZEN OF VIET NAM AND NOT RPT NOT AS A BUDDHIST. THIS IS BECAUSE HE MUST SERVE ALL OF THE PEOPLE, CATHOLICS AND HOA HAO AS WELL AS BUDDHISTS, IF HE IS ELECTED. HE REJECTED THE IDEA THAT HIS PRESENCE ON HUONG'S TICKET IS DESIGNED TO OVERCOME HUONG'S REPUTATION AS AN ENEMY OF THE BUDDHISTS.

4. COMMENT: A) TRUYEN IS CLEARLY THINKING OF BASING OIS CAMPAIGN ON THE NEED FOR REFORM AND INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT AND ON THE "PEACE" ISSUE. THIS IS ALSO OUR READING OF REMARKS BY HUONG (SAIGON 26352 AND SAIGON 19123).
B) ALTHOUGH TRUYEN MAY NOT BE VERY ACTIVE IN PLANNING THE CAMPAIGN, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT HE IS BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF TRIEU AND HIS FRIENDS THAN HE INDICATED. HE AND HUONG MAY WISH TO LEAVE THE POLITICKING TO THEIR JUNIOR SUPPORTERS ON THE THEORY THAT TO BID OPENLY FOR SUPPORT WOULD DEMAND THEIR IMAGE AS THE "SYMBOL" OF HONEST AND INTEGRITY.

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